

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 105-131 and amended claims 41-104 as follows:

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41. (Currently Amended) A communications system for communicating between an information provider and at least one client computer on a computer network providing bi-directional electronic communications between users at client computers on a computer network and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, the system comprising:

- C-1*
- a satellite receiver operating to receive download data from the information provider the global communications network;
 - a plurality of client computers on a computer network each of said client computers including first network hardware and first network software for communication with the information provider; and
 - a server computer, including second network hardware and second network software for communications with the computer network, in electronic communication with said satellite receiver and in electronic communication with the computer network, said server computer having satellite receiver interface software installed thereon operating to receive the download data from said satellite receiver and operating to route the download data to said plurality of client computers for use by the application software on each of said client computers, via the computer network, in order to provide the advantages of satellite communications for high volume download data packets; and said server computer network being programmed to route the

download data to client computers on the computer network irrespective of the client computer's operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality of client computers; and

~~a communications device, said communications device being in electronic communications with said server computer, upload data being provided to said communications device via said server computer, and said upload data being sent to the global communications network via said communications device.~~

42. (Previously added): The communications system as defined in claim 41

wherein said computer network is a local area network.

43. (Previously added): The communications system as defined in claim 41

wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

44. (Currently amended): The communications system as defined in claim 42 further

comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's routing of the download

data includes storing the download data on said storage medium ~~computer is~~

~~programmed to route the download data to said plurality of client computers on the~~

~~local area network irrespective of the client computers' operating systems such that said~~

~~server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer~~

~~of the plurality of client computers.~~

45. (Currently amended): The communications system as defined in claim 44
wherein said storage medium is included in said server computer of claim 42 wherein
the upload data is sent at a substantially lower rate than the download data is being
received.
46. (Currently amended): The communications as defined in claim 44 wherein said
storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is
stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by
said at least one of said plurality of client computers system of claim 42 wherein the bi-
directional electronic communications is asymmetric.
47. (Currently amended): The communications system of claim 46 wherein said
intermediate storage medium includes a cache 42 wherein said communications device
is capable of receiving additional download data.
48. (Currently amended): The communications system of claim 42 wherein said
server computer runs a server operating system the communications device comprises a
land-line communications device.
49. (Currently amended): The communications system of claim 42 wherein said
server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol
the communications device comprises a wireless communications device.
50. (Currently amended): The communications system as defined in claim 42
wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of local
area networks further comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's

~~routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage~~
~~medium.~~

51. (Currently amended): A server computer for communicating between a global communications network and at least one client computer on a computer network, the server computer comprising:

network hardware for connecting said server computer to the computer network;
communications hardware for enabling electronic communications with a satellite receiver operating to receive download data which is then sent to a client computer by the server computer via a computer network in order to provide the advantages of satellite communications for high volume download data packets;

a processor; and

a computer readable medium containing:

network instructions for communications between said server computer and the computer network;

satellite receiver interface software instructions for communications between said server computer and the satellite receiver;

router instructions, said router instructions operating to receive download data from the global communications network and operating to route the download data to at least one client computer on the computer network irrespective of the client computer's operating systems such that said server computer does not

require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality of client computers; and
wherein said network instructions, said satellite instructions and said router instructions are executable by said processor. ~~The communications system as defined in claim 50 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said plurality of client computers.~~

52. (Currently amended): The server computer as defined in claim 51 wherein said computer network is a local area network ~~communications system as defined in claim 51 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.~~

53. (Currently amended): The server computer as defined in claim 51 wherein said computer network is a wide area network ~~communications system as defined in claim 42 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.~~

54. (Currently amended): The server as defined in claim 52 further comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on the storage medium ~~communications system as defined in claim 42 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.~~

55. (Currently amended): The server computer as defined in claim 54 wherein said storage medium is included in said server computer ~~A computer-readable medium~~

~~containing instructions for providing bi-directional electronic communications between a plurality of client computers on a computer network and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, wherein the instructions comprise executable instructions for implementing a method comprising:~~

~~receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer;~~

~~routing the download data to the plurality of client computers via the computer network;~~

~~receiving upload data from said plurality of client computers via the computer network;~~

~~and~~

~~transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information provider.~~

56. (Currently amended) The server computer as defined in claim 54 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said at least one client computer computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

57. (Currently amended): The server computer as defined in claim 56 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

58. (Currently amended): The server computer as defined in claim 52 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system computer-readable medium as defined

~~in claim 56 wherein said server computer is programmed to route the download data to said plurality of client computers on the local area network irrespective of the client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality of client computers.~~

59. (Currently amended): The server computer as define din claim 52 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol computer readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein the communications device comprises a land line communications device.

60. (Currently amended): The server computer as defined in claim 52 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of local area networks computer readable medium as defined in claim 59 wherein said land line communications device uses an ISDN connection.

61. (Currently amended) A method for providing access to a global communications network for at least one client computer on a computer network, which comprises:
receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication
with a server computer, said server computer having satellite receiver
interface software installed thereon and said satellite receiver operating to
receive download data; and
routing said received download data to at least one client computer via the
computer network, in order to provide the advantages of satellite
communications for high volume download data packets, irrespective of the

client computer's operating systems such that said server computer does not
require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality
of client computers ~~The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 59~~
~~wherein said land-line communications device uses a T1 connection.~~

62. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 61 wherein said computer
network is a local area network ~~computer-readable medium as defined in claim 59~~
~~wherein said land-line communications device comprises a modem.~~

63. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 61 wherein said computer
network is a wide area network ~~computer-readable medium as defined in claim 59~~
~~wherein said land-line communications device uses a frame-relay network.~~

64. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 61 wherein the server
computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's
routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage
medium ~~computer-readable medium as defined in claim 59 wherein said land-line~~
~~communications device uses ATM.~~

65. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 64 wherein said storage
medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on
said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said at least
one client computer ~~computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein the~~
~~communications device comprises a wireless communications device.~~

66. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 65 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache computer-readable medium as defined in claim 65 wherein the wireless communications device uses a satellite link.
67. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 61 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said computer-readable medium is included in the server computer.
68. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 61 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein said communications device comprises a satellite-based communications device.
69. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 61 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of computer networks computer-readable medium as defined in claim 55 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.
70. (Currently amended): A computer readable medium containing instructions for providing access to a global communications network for at least one client computer on a computer network, wherein the instructions comprise executable instructions for implementing a method comprising:

 receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication

 with a server computer, said server computer having satellite receiver

interface software installed thereon, and said satellite receiver operating to
receive download data; and
routing said received download data to at least one client computer via the
computer network, in order to provide the advantages of satellite
communications for high volume download data packets, irrespective of the
client computer's operating system such that said server computer does not
require the same operating system for each client computer ~~The computer-~~
~~readable medium as defined in claim 69 wherein said storage medium is an~~
~~intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on~~
~~said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by~~
~~said plurality of client computers.~~

71. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 70
wherein said computer network is a local area network ~~intermediate storage medium~~
~~includes a cache.~~

72. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 70
wherein said computer network is a wide area network ~~55 wherein said server computer~~
~~runs a server operating system.~~

73. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 70
wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said
server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on

~~said storage medium 56 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.~~

74. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 73 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said at least one client computer 55 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of computer networks.

75. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 74 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache A method for providing bi-directional electronic communications between users at a plurality of client computers on a computer network and an information provider, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, which comprises: receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer; routing the download data to the plurality of client computers via the computer network; receiving upload data from said plurality of client computers via the computer network; and transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information provider.

76. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 70 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system method as defined in claim 75 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

77. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 71 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol method as defined in claim 75 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

78. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 70 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of computer networks method as defined in claim 75 wherein said server computer is programmed to route the download data to said plurality of client computers on the computer network irrespective of the client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality of client computers.

79. (Currently amended): A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a client computer, the system comprising:

a satellite receiver operating to receive download data from the information provider;

a client computer;

a server computer in electronic communication with said satellite receiver and in electronic communication with said client computer, said server computer having satellite receiver interface software installed thereon operating to receive the download data from said satellite receiver and operating to route the download data to said client computer via a computer network in order to

provide the advantages of satellite communications for high volume

download data packets ~~The method as defined in claim 75 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.~~

80. (Currently amended): The communications system as defined in claim 79 further comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium ~~method as defined in claim 79 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said plurality of client computers.~~

81. (Currently amended): The communications system as defined in claim 80 wherein said storage medium is included in said server computer ~~method as defined in claim 80 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.~~

82. (Currently amended): The communications system as defined in claim 80 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said client computer ~~method as defined in claim 75 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.~~

83. (Currently amended): The communications system as defined in claim 82 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache ~~method as defined in claim~~

~~76 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.~~

84. (Currently amended): The communications system as defined in claim 79 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system method as defined in claim 75 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of computer networks.

85. (Currently amended): The A communications system as defined in claim 79 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol for providing bi-directional electronic communications between at least one client computer on a computer network and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, the system comprising:

- a satellite receiver operating to receive download data from the global communications network;
- a plurality of client computers on a computer network;
- a server computer in electronic communication with said satellite receiver and in electronic communication with the computer network, said server computer operating to receive the download data from said satellite receiver and operating to route the download data to at least one computer of said plurality of client computers via the computer network; and

~~a communications device, said communications device being in electronic
communications with said server computer, upload data being provided to said
communications device via said server computer, and said upload data being sent to the
global communications network via said communications device.~~

86. (Currently amended): A server computer for communicating between a global
communications network and a client computer, the server computer comprising:
first communications hardware for enabling electronic communications with the
client computer, via a computer network in order to provide the advantages
of satellite communications for high volume download data packets;
second communications hardware for enabling electronic communications
between the server computer and a satellite receiver;
a processor; and
a computer readable medium containing:
communication instructions for communications between said server computer
and the client computer;
satellite instructions, in the form of satellite receiver software, for
communications between said server computer and the satellite receiver;
routing instructions operating to receive download data from the global
communications network and operating to route the download data to the
client computer; and

wherein said communication instructions, said satellite instructions and said routing instructions are executable by said processor ~~The communications system as defined in claim 85 wherein said computer network is a local area network.~~

87. (Currently amended): The server computer as defined in claim 86 further comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium ~~communications system as defined in claim 85 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.~~

88. (Currently amended): The server computer ~~communications system as defined in claim 87~~ 86 further comprising a storage medium wherein said storage medium is included in said server computer ~~server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.~~

89. (Currently amended): The server computer as defined in claim 87 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said client computer ~~communications system as defined in claim 88 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said at least one of said plurality of client computers.~~

90. (Currently amended): The server computer ~~communications system as defined in claim 89 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.~~

91. (Currently amended): The server computer as defined in claim 86 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system communications system as defined in claim 88 wherein said storage medium is included in said server computer.
92. (Currently amended): The server computer communications system as defined in claim 86 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol runs a server operating system.
93. (Currently amended): A method for providing access to a global communications network for a client computer, which comprises:
receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer, said server computer having satellite receiver interface software installed thereon; and
routing the download data from said satellite receiver to a client computer on a network, in order to provide the advantages of satellite communications for high volume download data packets, irrespective of the client computer's operating system such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer ~~The communications system as defined in claim 86 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.~~
94. (Currently amended): The method communications system as defined in claim 93 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on

said storage medium 86 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of local area networks.

95. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 94 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said client computer ~~A computer-readable medium containing instructions for providing bi-directional electronic communications between at least one computer on a computer network and a global communications network, the electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, wherein the instructions comprise executable instructions for implementing a method comprising:~~
~~receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer;~~
~~routing the download data to at least one computer of a plurality of computers via the computer network;~~
~~receiving upload data from said at least one computer via the computer network; and~~
~~transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information provider.~~

96. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 95 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache ~~computer-readable medium as defined in claim 95 wherein said computer network is a local area network.~~

97. (Currently amended): The method ~~computer-readable medium~~ as defined in claim 93 wherein said ~~server computer runs a server operating system~~ 95 ~~wherein said computer network is a wide area network.~~

98. (Currently amended): The method as defined in claim 93 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol ~~computer-readable medium as defined in claim 95 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.~~

99. (Currently amended): The A computer-readable medium containing instructions for providing access to a global communications network for a client computer, wherein the instructions comprise executable instructions for implementing a method comprising:

receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer, said server computer having satellite receiver interface software installed thereon, and said satellite receiver operating to receive download data; and

routing said download data to a client computer on a network such that the server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer, in order to provide the advantages of satellite communications for high volume download data packets as defined in claim 98 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the

~~download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said at least one client computer.~~

100. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 99 wherein the server computer further comprises a storage medium and wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium ~~said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.~~

101. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 100 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said client computer 95 ~~wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.~~

102. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 101 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache 96 ~~wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.~~

103. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 99 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system 95 ~~wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of computer networks.~~

104. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium as defined in claim 99 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol ~~A method for providing bi-directional electronic communications between a client computer on a computer network and an information provider, the~~

~~electronic communications including both the reception and transmission of data, which~~

~~comprises:~~

~~receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a~~

~~server computer;~~

~~routing the download data to a client computer via the computer network;~~

~~receiving upload data from said client computer via the computer network; and~~

~~transmitting the upload data via a communications device to the information provider.~~

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